

Eli SID 05: Our Secret Story



There she is!

It was just the beginning of Summer, shortly after I'd decided to join μ 's.

In the third-year hallway, leading to the student council room.

Standing right in the middle of the hallway is Umi.

In her hand is a light-blue envelope.

And just past Umi, there's...

The thundering footsteps of someone running full throttle down the hallway. That would be...

"One of the first-years, maybe?"

I thought I'd whispered it, but... it seems she's heard me.

"Eli..."

With a gasp, Umi turns to face me, her face uneasy and red with embarrassment, along with a hint of anger... a rather complicated expression.

"Were you watching in secret the entire time?"

At times like these, Umi can be a bit intimidating.

"I... I wasn't trying to spy on you or anything, see? I was just walking to the student council room, and just happened to..." I say nervously.

"You just happened to pass by?" Umi mutters, her shoulders dropping.

"That's right, I just happened to see you. Total coincidence♡" I laugh, and Umi giggles along with me.

"So you saw everything, did you...?" she says, helplessly shaking her head before facing me again.

But, before I can answer, she adds, "Please, keep this a secret from the others. If Honoka or Kotori find out, they'll raise a fuss..."

But, she seems ever-so-slightly...

Uneasy.

How adorable♪

Giggling, I nod my head in agreement, and Umi returns me a doubting frown.

Oh, please!

Am I really that untrustworthy?

Even though I'm the bona-fide school council president?

Hehe♡

♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

As I walk down the stairs along with Umi as she heads to the club room,
Her silent, sidelong glances at me become too much to bear, so I ask, "Hey, so, I've heard the rumors, but you really are as popular as they say, aren't you? So how many love letters does that make since you started your second year?"

Umi blushes and hangs her head.

"It's not a l... love letter... and I haven't been counting!"

She really is just so cute♡

Watching someone as direct and uptight as Umi respond is so fun, I get the urge to push further.

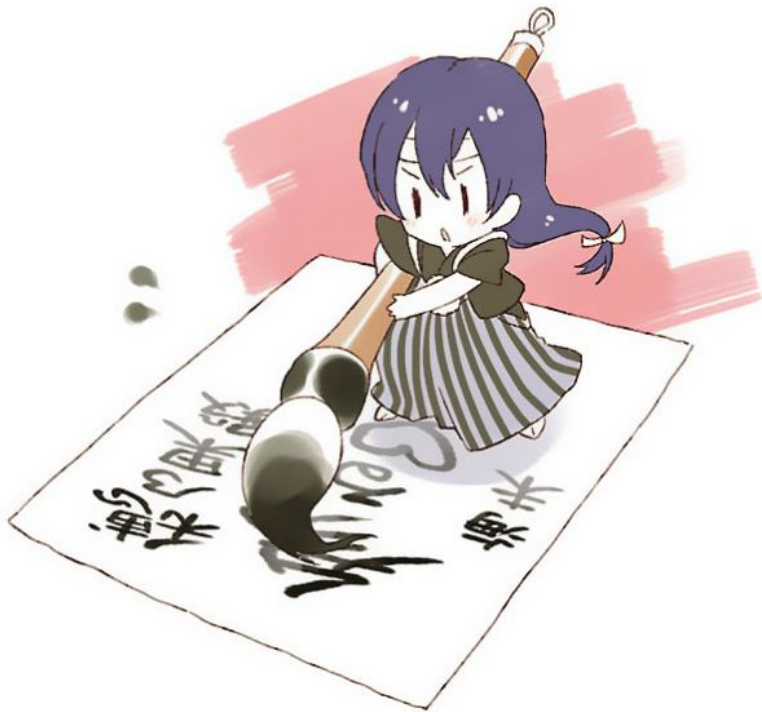
"Really? I mean, that does say, 'Please write back! I'll be waiting for your response♡', doesn't it? How will you respond?"

With difficulty, Umi stammers, "I... I'm... not going to write one."

"Huuuh!? You're not!?" I inadvertently blurt out.

Who'd expect someone as proper as Umi not to write back!?

I'd kinda been hoping she'd respond with a scroll of elegant brush calligraphy...



Aw, so that was just my imagination gone wild...

Uncharacteristically scratching her head gently, Umi says, "I really don't know how to handle these. At first, I didn't even imagine that letter saying 'please be my older sister' was a I... love letter, so, thinking she simply wanted to build relationships with their upperclassmen, I wrote back, 'With pleasure, if someone like me will suffice', and then..."

As Umi's face flushes red...

"Pfft," I fail to hold back my laughter.

"And then it turned into a real mess?"

"Yes..."

As she speaks, those unexpectedly puffy cheeks of hers are just begging me to poke them.

"It did, in fact, turn into quite a mess. She'd make me lunch every day, wait at my doorstep when I went to or from school, and when I wanted to stop by Honoka's shop to buy red bean soup, she would vigorously dissuade me."

Uh huh.

You messed up, Umi.

You just don't know how this works, do you?

"And how did it turn out?"

"There's... nothing more to say about it..." she says hesitantly.

With that, I can't hold back anymore.

I start poking at that cute, puffed-out bit of her cheek right next to her mouth.

"Aw, really? You can't go that far and then keep the juicy bits to yourself! Just spill the beans already! Come on! Come on!"

Poke poke poke♡

"W-what are you doing, Eli-"

Ahaha? I dunno why, but when I'm with Umi, I just get the urge to mess with her. Wait, doesn't that make me kinda like Nico?

With that, I return to my senses and straighten myself out.

Nico's the last girl I want to be compared to.

"Uh, um... ahem! Well, how did it end up?"

But still, I just gotta know♪

Girls can't resist this kinda stuff. I'm dying so badly to find out that I can't keep my eyes from turning to hearts ♡

"Er... well, actually, I didn't get just one I-I-love letter..."

Not just one? So she got multiple letters? Then that means...

With her head hung low, Umi says, "Yes. I received several. But, I couldn't imagine they would actually be love letters. So, thinking they were just friendly letters, I replied to all of them as a good upperclassman would, saying, 'It would be my pleasure to have you by my side', and so on. And, hoping to bring more students to the dojo, I invited them to come by..."

"And then?"

"One day, all of those girls came together and demanded to know which one of them I really loved...."

Pfft.

This is too funny!

Ahaha! I start laughing out loud this time.

"Yeah, they would do that!"

Just picturing the scene in my head brings tears to my eyes.

"Yes, I was naive," Umi says dejectedly.

She really is just so cute ♡

"And that's why you decided not to reply to love letters anymore?"

"Yes. Though I feel sorry for doing so, I believe I would just be misunderstood regardless of how I respond."

As we chat, we reach the first floor, where we're greeted by radiant sunshine as we exit the school building.



Summer will soon be upon us, won't it?

Umi squints as well.

As I shield my eyes from the sun with my hand, I take a step past her.

"Well then, I'll be going to the student council room." I turn my head to say.

Worriedly, Umi says, "When will you be coming to μ's?"

"I'll be done quick. Just give me 20 minutes." I wink back.

"Try to be quick, could you please? We can't get in formation without everyone pres-"

Cutting her off, I say, "Yeah, I gotcha! Being the last to join, I know I need the practice. It's just that there's a few things I need to do for the student council..."

Umi bites her lip.

"You think maybe I'm unable to move on from the student council?" I say with a slight smile.

"Not at all..." she reluctantly replies.

Honestly, Umi...

Is she direct, or serious, or just stiff...

"You've got a bit of a one-track mind, so now that you're focused on μ's, everything else goes out the window, but..."

I'm a more of a realist.

"There's also people like me, who just can't do that sort of stuff. I guess I'm just a bit of a two timer♥"

Ah, why?

Why is it that when I look at her face, I just want to bully her?

Maybe I'm just a sadist?

I hope not. It'd be lame to live up to my looks like that.

"We'll be waiting," Umi replies with a dejected look.

I wanna poke her cheek one more time, but... we're running out of time, and that'll just waste more time we could spend practicing.

But with that thought, I get an idea.

I spin around.

"Oh, I know. Umi, I'll tell you a good way to reply to that love letter you got."

"Huh?" Umi says, taken aback.

"It's a secret trick for popular girls to use."

Taking a step forward, I bring my mouth to Umi's ear.

"You listening? Just write this, 'I'm touched by your feelings, but I'm sorry. There's already someone more precious to me than anyone else in the world. That would be my dear childhood friend, my beloved Ho... no... k-'"

"Aaaaah!" Umi screams, her face beet-red.

"What are you saying, Eli!? If I do that, they'll just misunderstand even m-"

"Aw, come on, it's just the truth, isn't it?" I scoff.

"The way you're so direct and straight-laced is one of your strong points. If you write back like that, nobody will even think you're lying. Better yet, they'll switch to the tragic heroine role, thinking, 'There's no way I can beat Honoka!' Though it hurts, I'll have to admit defeat! I hope you and Honoka find joy together!"

I make a show of crying to her.

Glaring at me with upturned eyes, Umi says, "So, is that how you write back?"

Uh?

"Nico has told me how popular you are. You're the student council president, after all. Why, just the other day, one of your underclassmen brought you a love letter during the break period."



Ugh, Nico really needs to learn to keep her mouth shut!

With this sudden reversal, I begin to panic.

"So, that is how you respond, is it not? When your underclassmen bring you love letters, you write back, 'Forgive me, but there is already someone I treasure above any other. That would be my fellow third-year student, Miss Tou-'"

"Waaaaaaah!"

Hey, what are you saying!? That is so not how we are!

I feel the heat spreading to my ears.

Seeing my reaction, Umi begins to giggle, apparently unable to hold herself back any longer.

"See? You're no different from me, aren't you?"

As she begins to cry and howl with laughter...

The sight starts to make me laugh with her too.

"Girls schools sure are a pain, huh?" I say.

"Yes, they can be quite the pain." Umi replies with a laugh.

"But, are you happy you came here?" I ask, and Umi answers with a smile,

"Of course. I have Honoka, who's been together with me since before we were born, along with the other friends I've met here."

She smiles happily.

That smile of hers...

It's seriously just so cute! Am I a bit of a cheater for thinking that?

With a sudden thought, I say, "You think maybe if you and I became a couple, the school would devolve into a sea of wails?"

"W-what are you saying-?" Umi panics.

Hmm, yep!

I think Umi looks cuter when she's all flustered♡

With that, I lightly pat her on the head.

"Well then, I'd better get going now, or Nozomi's gonna get mad."

Returning to my frantic pace, I wave as I walk away,

Leaving the speechless Umi behind me.

I head for Nozomi, at the student council room.

Umi heads to the club room, with Honoka likely waiting for her there.

My cute little Umi,

It was great spending a bit of time alone time with you.

Your dear big sister Elichka hopes you stay as pure as you are forever

Hehehe♡

Comments♥Umi

It's unfair how Eli loves teasing others so much, and yet trivial matters can shake her up so much herself. And the way she hugs or pokes people all of a sudden... well, she may be used to it as a quarter-Russian but, with me being as unaccustomed to it as I am, when she does that to me, my heart starts to... Aah, what am I saying!? Eli's displays of friendship may still be a bit too high-level for me...

